

REMARKS

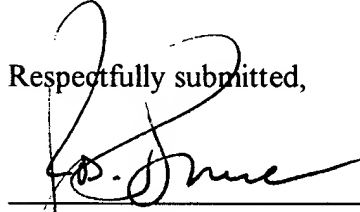
Applicants' undersigned representative thanks Examiner Epps-Ford for the preliminary indication that the claims appear to be in condition for allowance pending correction of a typographical error in the previously submitted Rule 131 Declaration of the inventors. Specifically, in the prior Declaration, paragraph 4 made reference to "Exhibits B-X" when there were only three Exhibits, A, B, and C. Applicants respectfully request that the newly-executed Rule 131 Declaration attached hereto be entered into the case. The attached Declaration is identical to the earlier-submitted Declaration, with the exception that paragraph 4 now makes proper reference to "Exhibits A-C."

Applicants also submit herewith a complete listing of the pending claims, Claims 27, 28, and 31-40.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph T. Leone, Reg. No. 37,170
DEWITT ROSS & STEVENS S.C.
Firstar Financial Centre
8000 Excelsior Drive, Suite 401
Madison, Wisconsin 53717-1914
Telephone: (608) 831-2100
Facsimile: (608) 831-2106

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

MAIL STOP: AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date of Deposit: 1-27-04

Signature: 